

# Regents' Scholarship Update

*-Implementation of changes in relation to SB 256 (Hillyard/McCay)-*

Dave Buhler, Commissioner of Higher Education  
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# Overview

- State scholarship helps Utah high school students take the most important classes to prepare for college.
- Since 2008, the Regents' Scholarship has been awarded to over 17,000 students, growing an average 20% annually.
- Changes discussed today impact this year's juniors (class of 2019)



# Academic performance of recipients

- High school GPA: 3.9
- ACT: 27
- College GPA: Full point above all other students (3.5 vs. 2.5 after 1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Average course load: 8-10 credits more than all other students (27 vs. 18 credits in 1<sup>st</sup> year)



# Why make changes?

- SB256 – *Regents' Scholarship Amendments*
  - “Criteria to determine a student’s eligibility for a Regents’ scholarship, including...address college affordability and access”
- The Board of Regents requested review in relation to 2025 *Affordable Participation* goal, specifically:
  - Financial sustainability
  - Duplication
  - Assisting students who face economic barriers
- 2017 Annual Report on Intergenerational Poverty recommends:
  - “Increased exposure to more high schools students of postsecondary education opportunities beginning in high school.”



# Findings

- 91% of Regents' Scholarship recipients received institutional awards.
- Regents' Scholarship is awarded separately from institutional award “packaging” (waivers, scholarships, etc.).
- Only 5.8% of 2016 enrolled scholarship recipients were from low-income households. (Compared to 26.5% of all students)



# Scholarship goals

1. Continue with required course of study (simplified).
2. Ensure efficient use of funds, especially for those who face significant economic barriers.
3. Increase coordination with institutions.



# New award

- Award determined annually based on available funds and applicants.
- Award may vary based on student's ability to pay for college.
- Awards will be coordinated with institutions.



# New requirements

- Continue to award high academic achievement by requiring a defined course of study, ACT score, and GPA.
- Simplified application process.
- All applicants will be required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with an *Estimated Family Contribution (EFC)*.
  - But it is not required applicants be eligible for federal aid.



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